

Siemens simplifies MRI modernisation journey

Tim upgrades extend the life of MRI simply and cost effectively

In order to maximise efficiency and reduce NHS Trust capital expenditure, Siemens Healthcare is promoting its Tim[®] (Total imaging matrix) upgrades to extend the life of existing MRI infrastructure. An MRI upgrade takes minimal time, delivers rapid returns and is at a lower cost compared to a new installation. This modernisation journey rapidly extends the life of existing equipment into the future to support evolving patient needs.

Other benefits of a Tim[®] upgrade include improved image quality to boost clinical confidence, speeded up scan times to help with seeing more patients during the working day and raised staff morale from working with up-to-date technology. Another motivation factor is that an upgrade involves less disruption to imaging departments than new installation works.

Debbie King, Modality Lead Radiographer in MRI at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, part of the Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust comments on her experience of the Tim[®] upgrade process, "Our MRI scanner was approaching eight years old so we had to make a decision to replace or lengthen its life - we opted for a Tim[®] upgrade to work with what was already in place. We have been really pleased with the benefits, gaining faster scan times and better signal to noise ratio for improved image quality. As a result we have been able to introduce a new cardiac imaging service at the hospital to avoid the need for patients to be referred elsewhere."

Claire Brettle, Superintendent Radiographer for CT & MRI at Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust adds, "The upgrade was a much more cost effective option than buying a new MRI scanner to increase throughput and deliver better image quality. The results have been great - we chose to enhance image quality over faster scans and it has made everything we do much better."

A Tim[®] upgrade of a MAGNETOM Symphony MRI system from Siemens includes new hardware such as an RF system with 18 or 32 independent channels for faster imaging and higher signal-to-noise ratio (SNR), new standard and optional coils, new table for easier patient handling, Audio Comfort improvements for quieter examinations and a new computer system for faster reconstruction.

“When MRI systems are nearing their replacement age, technical upgrades offer a quick and alternative route to modernising capital equipment compared to an entirely new system install. The cost savings are also a big plus for NHS Trusts that want to extend MRI life spans to gain better image quality and speed,” states Jane Kilkenny, MRI Product Manager at Siemens Healthcare.

To request information on Tim[®] upgrades from Siemens Healthcare please email, life.med.gb@siemens.com

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Notes to editors:

High resolution images available upon request.

Picture caption: A Tim upgrade from Siemens Healthcare takes minimal time, delivers rapid returns and is at a lower cost compared to a new installation



About Siemens Healthcare

The **Siemens Healthcare Sector** is one of the world's largest suppliers to the healthcare industry and a trendsetter in medical imaging, laboratory diagnostics, medical information technology and hearing aids. Siemens offers its customers products and solutions for the entire range of patient care from a single source – from prevention and early detection to diagnosis, and on to treatment and aftercare. By optimizing clinical workflows for the most common diseases, Siemens also makes healthcare faster, better and more cost-effective. Siemens Healthcare employs some 48,000 employees worldwide and operates around the world. In fiscal year 2010 (to September 30), the Sector posted revenue of 12.4 billion euros and profit of around 750 million euros. For further information please visit: www.siemens.com/healthcare.

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